

GRANTCHESTER SIGNS OFF IN STYLE – TEN ANIMALS OVER 3000 GNS TO A TOP OF 3300 GNS TWICE

A good crowd descended on Beeston Castle Auction for a sale of a major portion of the Grantchester Herd, the property of Grantchester Farms, Lower House Farm, Audlem, Cheshire, and was the first part in the process to disperse the entire herd which should be completed by next summer.

The Grantchester Herd has a quite illustrious history producing many outstanding individuals who dominated the show ring in the nineties, notably Starbuck Farrah, Ernlo Nellie and Heather 8 and whose families made up a large proportion of the current herd.

Buyers were in attendance from all over and the cattle were distributed to areas from Scotland in the north to Somerset in the south and from Norfolk eastwards and to West Wales as well as two lots to Northern Ireland.

The trade was very level and consistent throughout the sale with no really big high prices, but nevertheless ten animals sold for 3000 gns or more and a further ten from 2500 gns to 2900 gns.

The top price was 3300 gns achieved twice; firstly for the fresh red and white milking heifer Grantchester September Belle Red (VG85-2yr) who is the 11th successive generation of cows classified in the top two grades. She had calved a month and sold to Seaton Farms of Audlem for their Styche Herd. They also purchased her month old heifer calf by Westport Bookman Red for 1800 gns. A full sister to the milking heifer led the in-calf heifer section selling for 3000 gns to TR & JM Oultram & Sons of Frodsham. She was due in February to Bookman Red.

The other joint top seller was the August calved second calver, Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 9th (VG86) whose five nearest dams are all Excellent. She sold to Randall McDowell of Market Drayton who also purchased her full sister, Goldwyn Farrah 12th ET (GP83) who was due with her second calf in March to Bolivia Allen, for 3000 gns.

The outstanding fresh second calver Grantchester Damion Farrah (VG87), sold giving 50 kg daily was next in the price list selling for 3200 gns to MA Jeanes Farms Ltd for their Stowey Herd at Bridgwater, Somerset. Also at this price Seaton Farms were in the market again purchasing the lovely Grantchester Astronomical Joy (VG89) who is due in February with her third calf to Talent.

At 3100 gns was the July calved heifer Grantchester Goldwyn Special 2nd (VG86-2yr) who is the tenth generation of animals classified in the top two grades. She had been recently bred to Bolivia Allen and was the choice of Clayden Holsteins of Crewe.

The second calf Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 10th (VG86) sold for 3000 gns to the Paterson family for their Airfield Herd at Shipdham, Norfolk and the final milker at this price was the beautifully powerful Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 3rd (VG86), a second calver due with her third in March to Bolivia Allen who was purchased by Peter Waring for his Winton Herd at Beverley, East Yorkshire. This cow was the dam of the top priced heifer calf, the February born Grantchester September Farrah 21st who sold for 3200 gns to Jack Watts of Caerphilly, Cardiff.

This was a really good sale with almost seventy buyers recorded.

TOP PRICES:

			GNS
Lot 9	Grantchester September Belle Red (VG85-2yr)	Seaton Farms, Cheshire	3300
Lot 27	Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 9 th (VG86)	R McDowell, Shropshire	3300
Lot 15	Grantchester Damion Farrah (VG87)	MA Jeanes (Farms) Ltd, Somerset	3200
Lot 42a	Grantchester September Farrah 21 st	J Watts, Caerphilly	3200

Lot 77	Grantchester Astronomical Joy (VG89)	Seaton Farms, Cheshire	3200
Lot 119	Grantchester Goldwyn Special 2 nd (VG86)	Clayden Holsteins, Cheshire	3100
Lot 20	Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 10 th (VG86)	Robert Paterson, Norfolk	3000
Lot 28	Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 12 th (GP83)	R McDowell, Shropshire	3000
Lot 42	Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 3 rd PI (VG86)	P J Waring, E.Yorkshire	3000
Lot 157	Grantchester September Belle Red 3 rd ET	TR & JM Oultram & Sons, Cheshire	3000
Lot 4	Grantchester September Balise 2 nd (EX91)	SFR Farming Ltd, Cheshire	2900
Lot 56	Grantchester Goldwyn Heather 151 st (VG86)	MA Jeanes (Farms) Ltd, Somerset	2900
Lot 63	Grantchester Goldwyn Heather 160 th (VG85)	Robert Paterson, Norfolk	2900
Lot 101	Grantchester September Pam 4 th (VG86)	GW & J Mercer, Lancashire	2900
Lot 116	Grantchester Goldwyn Shimmer (VG86)	NJ & LC Sercombe, Leicestershire	2750
Lot 106	Grantchester September Raquel 2 nd PI (EX90)	P J Andrews, Hereford	2750
Lot 158	Grantchester Lheros Celicia ET	Sahara Holsteins, Monmouthshire	2750
Lot 66	Grantchester Goldwyn Heather 162 nd (VG87)	R Webster & Sons, Sheffield	2700
Lot 18	Grantchester Gibson Farrah 16 th (VG87)	GAG Evans & Son, Welshpool	2600
Lot 45	Grantchester Kite Fawn PI (VG86)	Robert Paterson, Norfolk	2500
Lot 53	Grantchester Goldwyn Golda PI (VG87)	Seaton Farms, Cheshire	2450
Lot 1	Grantchester Goldwyn Anna 3 rd (VG85-2yr)	P J Andrews, Hereford	2400
Lot 16	Grantchester September Farrah Red 6 th PI (VG85)	NF Clothier & Sons Ltd, Somerset	2350
Lot 19	Grantchester Goldwyn Farrah 4 th (VG86-3yr)	EM & JR Evans, Shropshire	2300
Lot 5	Grantchester Duplex Balise PI (VG88)	K Marshall, Carmarthen	2200
Lot 34	Grantchester September Farrah 8 th PI (GP84)	GW & J Mercer, Lancashire	2200
Lot 54	Grantchester Gibson Heather 150 th (VG86)	TR & JM Oultram & Sons, Cheshire	2200

AVERAGES:

101 Cows and Milking Heifers £2487.98 (including 63 '2010' born heifer calves at £980.83);

10 Served Heifers £1691.55; 38 Maiden Heifers £1206.12; 1 Bull £787.50; 150 Lots £2098.81

WRIGHT MANLEY of Beeston Castle Auction, Cheshire were the Auctioneers.